Excellency,

I write to you in my capacity as Coordinator on National Reporting under CCW Protocol V and with respect to the upcoming Meeting of Experts (25 to 27 April 2012, Geneva).

The Fifth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Protocol decided:

(a) *All High Contracting Parties and observer States to be encouraged to submit national reports.*

(b) *High Contracting Parties are encouraged to use the Guide to National Reporting, which was adopted by the Fourth Conference.*

(c) *The Meeting of Experts in 2012 to continue its examination of the reporting forms and the Guide to National Reporting with a view to making recommendations to the Sixth Conference.*

(d) *The Coordinator with the support of the CCW Implementation Support Unit to provide an assessment from the national reports submitted on the utility of the Guide to National Reporting and the progress in implementing the provisions of Protocol V for the Meeting of Experts in 2012.*

In accordance with the mandate for this year’s Meeting of Experts:

- All High Contracting Parties and observer States are encouraged to submit national reports. The submission date is 31 March;

- Last year 45 High Contracting Parties submitted reports. This year I intend to hold a separate meeting with those High Contracting Parties which have not submitted reports and to discuss possible options for assisting them in fulfilling this task; and

- I will present the assessment of the national reports and the utility of the Guide to National Reporting. Following this presentation, I encourage all delegations to participate in the discussion on the utility of the National Guide on Reporting and the examination of the reporting forms.
National reporting is crucial for creating transparency and building confidence in the implementation of Protocol V. I look forward to your delegation’s participation in the discussion on national reporting. If you have any questions please contact me or the CCW Implementation Support Unit.

Coordinator on National Reporting

Amandeep Singh Gill